

Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 /028 W
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P R 081618Z MAR 76
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7309
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

UNCLAS MONTREAL 263

DEPT FOR M/BOUCHARD

VANCOUVER FOR AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AFSP, OREP, OVIP
SUBJ: TICKETS TO OLYMPIC GAMES

1. PER REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR, WOULD URGE THAT LETTER ALONG
FOLLOWING LINES BE SENT TO EACH MEMBER OF CONGRESS, ALL GOVERNORS,
THE MAYORS' ASSOCIATION, APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE
BRANCH:

"YOU WILL RECALL MY EARLIER LETTER ADVISING THAT THE EMBASSY
IN OTTAWA AND THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN MONTREAL WILL NOT HAVE
ANY TICKETS TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES OR HOTEL SPACE AVAILABLE FOR
VISITORS FROM THE UNITED STATES THIS SUMMER. REGRETFULLY, I
MUST REASSERT THESE FACTS. IN ORDER TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN
WITHIN OUR LIMITED MEANS HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING YOU UP
TO DATE ON THE LATEST STATE OF PLAY WITH RESPECT TO TICKETS/
HOUSING SO THAT YOU MAY MAKE YOUR PLANS AS CONVENIENTLY AS
POSSIBLE.

"RESIDUAL TICKETS FOR EVENTS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES TO BE
HELD IN MONTREAL THIS SUMMER HAVE NOW BEEN RECALLED FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES FOR DIRECT SALE BY THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
(COJO) IN THAT CITY. FEW, IF ANY, TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE FOR
FINAL EVENTS BUT THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE SAYS THERE ARE SUB-
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STANTIAL BLOCKS AVAILABLE FOR FIELD HOCKEY, SOCCER, TRACK AND

FIELD, EQUESTRIAN, CANOEING, JUDO, HANDBALL, ARCHERY, SHOOTING, MODERN PENTATHLON, SOME PRELIMINARIES IN BOXING AND BASKETBALL AND PERHAPS A FEW GYMNASTIC EVENTS.

"IN ADDITION, THE GAMES HOUSING AUTHORITY HAS REPORTED A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ROOM RESERVATION CANCELLATIONS RECENTLY BY TRAVEL AGENTS WHO HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN OVERLY-OPTIMISTIC IN THEIR PROJECTIONS OF TICKET-ROOMS PACKAGE SALES, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EVEN BETTER SEATS AND ROOMS MAY BE AVAILABLE FROM SUCH A SOURCE.

"YOU MAY WISH, THEREFORE, TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT TO ASCERTAIN WHAT IS AVAILABLE BEFORE, IF NECESSARY, WRITING TO THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE. IF NO TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THAT SOURCE, HOWEVER, THE ADDRESS TO WHICH REQUESTS/ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED IN MONTREAL IS: OLYMPIC ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (COJO), 388 ST. JAMES ST. WEST, MONTREAL, P.Q. CANADA. FOR HOTEL OR OTHER ROOMS, YOU SHOULD WRITE TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY: MR. BLAIR FRASER ARMITAGE ESQUIRE, CHEF DE SERVICE DES INVITEES SPECIAUX, 201 E. RUE CREMAZIE, MONTREAL, P.Q. CANADA.

"I WOULD NOTE THAT ONLY VOUCHERS FOR TICKETS ARE BEING ISSUED AT THIS TIME. THEY ARE TO BE EXCHANGED FOR ACTUAL TICKETS IN JUNE. I FEEL SURE YOU REALIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THE BEST SEATS WILL BE SNAPPED UP FIRST, REGARDLESS OF THE INCONVENIENCES (BUT GREATER SECURITY) OF THIS TWO-STEP SYSTEM.

"I HOPE THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE OF ASSISTANCE AND INTEREST TO YOU."

2. WE MUST AVOID ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD BE ABLE TO ACT AS MIDDLEMAN IN THESE ARRANGEMENTS, AS ANY MIXUPS (WHICH ARE QUITE POSSIBLE WITH COJO) WOULD THEN BE LAID AT THE DEPARTMENT'S, EMBASSY'S AND CONSULATE GENERAL'S DOORSTEPS.

3. REALIZE THIS WILL NOT ELIMINATE ALL CALLS ON US BUT IT MAY REDUCE THE NUMBER. LET US PRAY.
HARPER

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